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FCPS Delays Additional Students Returning to School

By Office of Communication and Community Relations

[Message from the Superintendent](#)

November 16, 2020

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Dear Parents, Caregivers, and FCPS staff,

The current health metrics for COVID-19 cases in our community now exceed the threshold to expand our in-person learning. Therefore, we are pressing “pause” and will delay expanding in-person instruction to Group 5, which includes Early Head Start, pre-K, kindergarten and select students who receive special education services, who were scheduled to return on Tuesday, November 17. Any new pilot programs/classes scheduled to start tomorrow, November 17, will also pause. We are monitoring health metrics daily, but Group 5 will remain virtual until at least November 30. We will communicate additional updates closer to that time.

We made this decision as soon as new health metrics were released and are communicating it to you immediately as promised. We always anticipated the need to potentially adjust our return to school plans as necessary during this ongoing pandemic.

Students and staff who have been attending in-person classes (Groups 1-4), and our existing pilots, will continue to do so. CDC Guidelines allow us to keep small cohorts of students in schools. If metrics change that impact in-person instruction for Groups 1-4, we will update you as soon as that information becomes available. Specific health metrics that guide our decisions on when new groups of students can return for in-person instruction, what is required to continue in-person instruction, and what would initiate a group being transitioned to distance learning are posted [online](#).

We urge our community to help stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus: wear face coverings, maintain social distancing, and stay home when ill. More information on how to keep you and your family healthy is available [here](#).

Please join me for the most updated information during a virtual Return to School Town Hall from 6-7 pm this Thursday, November 19. Watch the event on your device [on the FCPS website](#). Submit your questions in advance to returntoschool@fcps.edu or call in during the Town Hall at 1-[800-231-6359](tel:800-231-6359).

These next few months will be not be easy. Know that I am committed to keeping you informed and updated as conditions change that impact FCPS students, families, and staff. I sincerely appreciate your continued support of our students.

Scott Brabrand, Superintendent

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